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APM-CIA-LEADERSHIP; BJT; 490

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WASHINGTON (AP) - CHANGES BEING MADE IN THE CIA LEADERSHIP COULD MEAN THE AGENCY'S ''DIRTY TRICKS'' DIVISION IS LOSING INFLUENCE AND THAT THE AGENCY WILL PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON ANALYZING INTELLIGENCE DATA THAN ON CLOAK-AND-DAGGER OPERATIONS.

THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THURSDAY THE RESIGNATION OF LT. GEN. VERNON WALTERS AS CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND THE NOMINATION OF E. HENRY KNOCHE; A CIVILIAN; AS HIS REPLACEMENT.

ONE SOURCE FAMILIAR WITH THE CHANGE SAID KNOCHE'S NOMINATION REFLECTS A NEW CIA EMPHASIS ON ANALYSIS OF INTELLIGENCE DATA AND AWAY FROM THE TYPE OF CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS THAT DREW HEAVY CRITICISM DURING HEARINGS BY HOUSE AND SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.

IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THOSE PANELS IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE CIA HAD CONDUCTED DOMESTIC SPYING OPERATIONS; HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN PLOTS TO ASSASSINATE FOREIGN LEADERS AND HAD PLOTTED SUCH BIZARRE OPERATIONS AS A PLAN TO MAKE CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO'S BEARD FALL OUT.

IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES; CIA OFFICIALS HAVE INSISTED THAT THE AGENCY'S PRIME MISSION WAS COLLECTING AND ANALYZING INFORMATION RATHER THAN ''DIRTY TRICKS.''

UNTIL RECENTLY; THE AGENCY'S TOP OFFICIALS HAVE RISEN THROUGH THE RANKS OF OVERSEAS OPERATIVES IN THE CIA'S PLANS DIVISION; SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS THE ''DIRTY TRICKS'' DEPARTMENT.

CIA DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH'S TWO PREDECESSORS; WILLIAM E. COLBY AND RICHARD HELMS; BOTH CAME TO THE TOP FROM THAT BACKGROUND. ON THE OTHER HAND; BUSH HAS A BACKGROUND IN DOMESTIC POLITICS AND U.S. DIPLOMACY. THUS; THE AGENCY'S NEW LEADERSHIP OF BUSH AND KNOCHE REPRESENTS A BREAK FROM THAT TRADITION.

ANOTHER HALLMARK IS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE AGENCY BEGAN IN 1947; NEITHER OF THE TOP TWO OFFICIALS IS A MILITARY MAN.

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN RON NESSEN SAID THE CHOICE OF KNOCHE ALSO REFLECTS BUSH'S WISH ''TO BUILD HIS OWN TEAM.''

UNDER PRESIDENT FORD'S CIA REORGANIZATION THERE IS A SECOND DEPUTY DIRECTOR; BEING FILLED BY VICE ADM. DANIEL MURPHY; WHOSE APPOINTMENT; UNLIKE KNOCHE'S; DOES NOT REQUIRE SENATE CONFIRMATION. KNOCHE; 51; WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE CIA.

KNOCHE; A NATIVE OF CHARLESTON; W.VA.; JOINED THE CIA IN 1955 FOLLOWING SERVICE WITH THE NAVY IN KOREA. HE WAS FIRST AN ANALYST SPECIALIZING IN POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS; THEN BECAME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY'S NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER. LATER; HE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUDGET ACTIVITIES AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE. HE ALSO WORKED IN THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND LAST YEAR WAS NAMED ASSOCIATE DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

WALTERS; 59; WAS NAMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR BY FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON IN 1969. NESSEN SAID THAT AFTER A 35-YEAR MILITARY CAREER; WALTERS BELIEVED HIMSELF ''OVERDUE TO GET OUT OF THE ARMY.''

WALTERS TESTIFIED DURING THE WATERGATE SCANDAL THAT HE REBUFFED ATTEMPTS BY NIXON AIDES TO MAKE IT APPEAR THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN WAS FINANCED AS PART OF A LEGITIMATE CIA OPERATION. OF CIA ABUSES; WALTERS HAS SAID THEY WERE THE WORK OF ''SOME NUTS; SOME OVERZEALOUS PEOPLE OR SOME PEOPLE WHO EXERCISED BAD JUDGMENT.'' OVER-ALL; HE HAS SAID; ''THE CIA COMES OFF LOOKING PRETTY GOOD.''

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